retired from the case, which the latter did. Dr. C. then arrived, and found a cross-presentation, and the woman complaining of much pain, other than of normal parturition, in the hypogastrium. She was also suffering from dyspnœa and vomiting. No signs of excessive hemorrhages from the genitals. Dr. C. at once turned the child, and delivered it with ease. But in introducing his hand into the vagina, he felt a cord-like piece of tissue pressing against his wrist, whose presence he could not explain. The subsequent stages of the labor were completed successfully. The woman, however, complained of violent pain in the left side of the abdomen; and, twenty-four hours later, a distinct swelling could be felt there. Forty-eight hours after the birth the woman died, with symptoms of abdominal inflammation, but without rise of temperature. At the autopsy, it was ascertained that the peritoneal cavity contained some ounces of dark, partly fluid, partly coagulated, blood; omentum slightly inflamed; uterus reddish-brown, and much swollen; a large tear at the inner edge of the vagina, toward the left side and front, measuring five inches long, and one to two inches broad, the edges of the tear being uneven, jagged, and reddened.

The conclusions arrived at by the experts who made the autopsy, was that Mrs. K. had died from injury to the genital organs, and that this injury could have been produced in the unskilful attempts of Dr. V. to deliver the woman. The *Medicinal Collegium* approved of the above conclusion, and characterized the treatment of Dr. V. as being throughout unskilful: (1) in administering ergot in a case of cross-presentation; (2) in endeavoring to deliver the child by pulling at its arm, and (3) by the use of forceps; and (4) in making no attempt to turn the child.

THE DETECTION OF BLOOD-STAINS WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO A HIGH TEMPERATURE.

At the suggestion of PROF. LIMAN, of Berlin, KATAYAMA has carried out in Salkowski's laboratory, a long series of experiments for the purpose of determining the effect of different degrees of heat on blood-stains, in interfering with their detection (*Viertlj. f. gerichtl. Med.*, N. F., Bd. xlix. pp. 269–281). Liman was led to suggest the investigation owing to his having at one time experienced difficulty in detecting blood in blood-stains on a coat which had been ironed. Katayama's method consisted in exposing blood-stains for one hour, each to a different degree of temperature, varying from 60° (140° F.) to 180° C. (356° F.), and afterward testing the solubility of the blood in various menstrua, viz.: Distilled water, saturated solution of borax, concentrated solution of potassium cyanide, solution of ammonia, dilute solution of caustic soda (one part solution of sp. gr. 1.017 + three parts of water), acidulated alcohol (twenty parts absolute alcohol + one part dilute sulphuric acid), and glacial acetic acid. The depth of color of the solution was noted, and its spectra determined.

The results of the investigation may be thus summarized: (1) A temperature of 100° C. (212° F.), or under, did not greatly interfere with the solubility of the blood in all the solvents. (2) A temperature of 120° C. (248° F.) rendered the blood insoluble in water and solution of borax, but left it slightly soluble in cyanide solution; still more soluble in ammonia and acidulated alcohol; and most soluble of all in soda solution and acetic acid. (3) A temperature of 140° C. (284° F.) to 180° C. (356° F.) so altered the blood that it ceased to be soluble in cyanide solution, as well as in water and borax solution; but it was still slightly soluble in ammonia and acidulated alcohol, and fairly soluble in soda solution and acetic acid. (4) The best solvents for heated blood-stains are, therefore, the last two named. (5) In the case of stains exposed to the higher temperatures, the only spectrum which the investigator can rely on obtaining, is that of reduced hæmatin or hæmochromogen. (6) Crystals of hæmatin may be obtained by the usual method from all stains heated to 120° C. (248° F.), from but two-thirds of those heated to 140° C. (284° F.), and from none heated to 160° (320° F.) or higher.

ARSENICAL WINE.

DR. MARQUEZ, of Hyères, has communicated an account of the wholesale poisoning by arsenical wine at Hyères, to the Société de Médecine Légale (*Annal. d'hyg. publ.*, sér. 3, t. xxi. pp. 74–77, January, 1889), from which it appears that, in the beginning of 1888, over 400 persons exhibited symptoms of a peculiar illness in Hyères and its neighborhood. Some were slightly affected, others more severely. In the former, the symptoms consisted chiefly of disturbances of the digestive organs, pain in the throat, a threatening of coryza, and lassitude. In the latter, the gastro-intestinal symptoms were greatly accentuated, and were sometimes accompanied by fever, vomiting, usually with a little diarrhœa or colic, preceded by dyspnœa and general catarrhal discharges, resembling the symptoms of a true influenza. Pains and cramps were also felt in the limbs, especially in the feet, less frequently in the hands, accompanied sometimes by contractions of the fingers and toes. Bronzing of the skin was also observed, and erythema followed by peeling of the epidermis, with or without ephidrosis, paralytic phenomena, hyperæsthetic or anæsthetic paresis, akinesia, amaurosis, anaphrodisia, metrorrhagia, etc.

The wine of the district was, after a while, suspected as the cause, and was examined, without any injurious ingredient, such as lead, or impure fuchsine, being discovered. The further progress of the illness, however, showed that it was distinctly to be associated with the wine from a particular vineyard, and a more careful analysis of it revealed the presence of arsenic to the extent of six centigrammes per litre (about one-half grain per pint). Inquiry at the vineyard elicited the fact that by accident a barrel of white arsenic, stored for seven or eight years, for the treatment of some vine disease, had been mistaken for a barrel of material of like appearance used in making wine. Dr. Marquez urges greater care in the sale and use of white arsenic.

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